

Application No. 09/871,140  
Amendment dated: 11/24/2004  
Reply to Office Action dated 08/26/2004

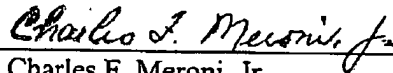
# REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 26, 2004, the U.S. Patent Examiner has indicated that Claim Nos. 1 – 98 are pending in the subject application. Of the claims listed as pending, Claim Nos. 66 – 98 are indicated to be allowable and Claim Nos. 1 – 66 are indicated to be rejected. From a closer inspection of the reasons for rejection as stated on Page Nos. 2 – 10 of the Office Action, as well as from a consideration of Paragraph Nos. 2 and 3 on Page No. 2 of the Office Action, Applicant presumes that Claim No. 66 is allowable despite the unclear status of Claim No. 66 from the Disposition of Claims section of the Office Action Summary.

In response to the Office Action, Applicant elects to cancel the rejected claims without traverse, namely, Claim Nos. 1 – 65, inclusive. In light of the foregoing, it is now believed that this patent application, as amended, is in immediate condition for allowance, and such action is kindly requested. If, after a review of this Amendment, issues remain which may be resolved by as telephone interview, the U.S. Patent Examiner is cordially invited to call the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

If attempts to reach the undersigned attorney are not successful, please be advised that Christopher J. Scott, Registration No. 48,647, may also be contacted with regard to this matter. Mr. Scott has been in regular communication with the undersigned regarding the Office Action and this amendment. Further, Mr. Scott is listed under our firm's Customer Number with the United States Patent and Trademark Office, namely, Customer Number 30114, and thus may be deemed a proper representative of Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,  
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